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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

Published Bi-Monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California.

JOSEPH GRINNELL, Editor, - Pasadena.
J. EUGENE LAW, Business Manager, Hollywood, Cal.
WILLIAM L. FINLEY } Associate Editors
ROBERT B. ROCKWELL }

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EDITORIALS

The editorial staff of THE CONDOR has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. Robert B. Rockwell, of Denver, who becomes Associate Editor. This is fortunate, because the geographic range of our magazine includes a very large region (west of the Mississippi) and it is propitious that the work be represented at several separate points in our field. Mr. Finley represents us in Oregon and Washington, and now we have Mr. Rockwell pledged to advance our magazine's interests in the Rocky Mountain region.

We wish it understood by our contributors that there is no intended significance in the arrangement of articles in any issue, beyond the selection of what we consider the most suitable photograph for the frontispiece. Sometimes we try to have illustrated and unillustrated articles alternate with one another, but sequence in no wise indicates order of merit.

We learn that Mr. Robert Ridgway expects to leave about March first for a six months' visit in Costa Rica. Upon his return he will resume work on Part V of his "Birds of North and Middle America."

The first National bird reservation to be established on the Pacific Coast was formally ordered by President Roosevelt on October 14, last. The area set aside is Three Arch Rocks, a group of islets on the coast of Oregon. The bird-life of these rocks was studied by Finley

and Bohlman (see CONDOR Vol. VII, pp. 119-161) and its protection has resulted chiefly from the endeavors of these energetic members of the Oregon Audubon Society.

We are further informed that thru the efforts of Mr. Dawson, whose article on the subject appears on another page of our present issue, three more breeding places of sea birds, on the Washington coast, have been officially reserved. These three reservations extend from Copalis Rock to Cape Flattery inclusive, a distance of nearly one hundred miles. Proceeding from south to north they are named:

Copalis Rock Reservation, including "all small, unsurveyed and unreserved islands lying off the coast of the State of Washington in the Pacific Ocean between latitude 47 degrees 20 minutes north, and 47 degrees 29 minutes north" * * * "reserved and set aside for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds and animals."

Quillayute Needles Reservation, extending from 47 degrees 38 minutes to 48 degrees 2 minutes north.

Flattery Rocks Reservation, extending from latitude 48 degrees 2 minutes to 48 degrees 23 minutes north. (The gap between the first and second reservations contains no islands.)

One of the most important factors in bird protection in Colorado is the State Bureau of Child and Animal Protection. This is a state organization with offices in the State Capitol Building which, under the efficient management of Secretary E. K. Whitehead, has accomplished more along this line than any other Humane Society in the United States.

A circular, size 11 inches by 14 inches, has been printed on very heavy durable paper, 1000 of which have recently been posted in conspicuous places all over the state, by this organization. The publicity thus given to the law protecting birds and their nests and eggs cannot fail to have a far-reaching effect thruout the wilder mountainous sections of the state, where the game laws are little known and where officers of the law are necessarily few and far between.

Doubly efficient will this warning be on account of the fact that there are representatives of the State Bureau at nearly 300 points in the state, persons who are serving without compensation, and simply on account of their intense interest in this line of work. These people may be depended upon to see that these laws are enforced when they have the assurance that an active and aggressive organization is back of them.

Mr. Whitehead has gone on record as giving assurance to all interested parties that he will rigorously prosecute all violators of the bird law if sufficient evidence is furnished him. Consequently it is up to the bird students of Colorado to see that evidence of all violations of the bird laws is put in the hands of the State Bureau of Child and Animal Protection. —R. B. R.

The following notice appeared in the Portland *Oregonian* for December 8, 1907:

"A consignment of European song birds was received last week by C. F. Pfluger, secretary of the Portland Songbird Club. The consignment consisted of song thrushes, chaff and goldfinches, black caps and skylarks. The birds were imported direct from the Hanover district in Germany and from England. Seventy pairs of the birds were placed in the aviary at the City Park to be sheltered until Spring, when they will be liberated. Sixty pairs of skylarks were also forwarded to bird clubs in Washington, Yamhill, Marion, Clatsop and Multnomah Counties, where they will later be set free.

"The Portland Club is also making arrangements for the importation of mocking birds, which are expected to reach this city early next Spring. Much good will result from the addition of these birds, as they are known to be effective insect exterminators, and are active, hardy and well adapted to the climate of this section."

Perhaps some such idiotic procedure as the above accounts for the record of the Chaffinch at Monterey (see CONDOR VIII, March, 1906, p. 58). The next thing we know we will have Chaffinches and Goldfinches to deal with along with the "English Sparrow problem." The Audubon Societies should bend their efforts against the introduction of foreign birds, if they wish to keep our native avifauna intact.

Mr. Finley suggests that the popularity of the introduction idea in Oregon is probably due to the importation of the "China Pheasant," so successful, at least from the sportsman's standpoint.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

AMERICAN BIRDS | STUDIED AND PHOTOGRAPHED FROM LIFE | By WILLIAM LOVELL FINLEY | Illustrated from Photographs by | Herman T. Bohlman | and the Author | Charles Scribner's Sons | New York | 1907 (our copy received December 10, 1907). Pp. I-XVI, 1-256, 127 halftones on book plate paper. (\$1.50.)

This is the most attractive popular bird book of the year. In fact it contains the greatest number of photographic illustrations, and illustrations of the greatest scientific value, of any book we have ever seen. The following well-stated epitome of the scope of the book constitutes part of the Prefatory Note:

"An important and sometimes difficult phase in the study of bird life is to observe accurately and report without false interpretation the habits and actions of birds. The naturalist who uses the camera in the field often has the

advantage of backing his observations with proof (not an unimportant thing in nature writing of today), and if he produces good authentic photographs, one may be quite sure they were not secured without patient waiting and a careful study of his subjects.

"In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. Each chapter represents a close and continued study with camera and notebook at the home of some bird or group of birds,—a true life history of each species. It is the bird as a live creature, its real wild personality and character, that I have tried to portray.

"Many of these studies were made in the West, but in the list of birds treated an effort has been made to get a selection that is national in scope. In the popular mind a song sparrow is a song sparrow from ocean to ocean, yet scientifically he represents over a dozen subspecies, according to the part of the country in which he lives. To the ordinary bird lover, however, a robin is the same east and west, and the same is true of the chickadee, flicker, wren, grosbeak, vireo, warbler, hawk, and others dealt with in the following chapters."

The twenty-one chapters are titled as follows: The Hummingbird at Home; The Chickadee; Photographing Flickers; The Yellowthroat; A Family of Grosbeaks; The Red-tailed Hawk; Jack Crow; The Owl, Bird of Night; Rearing a Wren Family; The Weaver of the West; Jimmy the Butcher-bird; The Warbler and His Ways; Kingfishers; Sparrow Row; Two Studies in Blue; Basket Makers, The Vireo and Oriole; Phoebe; A Pair of Cousins—Robin and Thrush; Gull Habits; In a Heron Village; The Eagle of Mission Ridge.

We feel a sort of pride in looking over this book, for it is a product of the West. Both Mr. Finley and Mr. Bohlman are western students, and the present results of their work is in no way inferior to that of the East or that of Europe. We heartily recommend the book to everyone.—J. G.

EVOLUTION AND ANIMAL LIFE | an elementary discussion of | facts, processes, laws and theories relating | to the life and evolution of animals | by | DAVID STARR JORDAN | President of Leland Stanford Junior University | and | VERNON LYMAN KELLOGG | Professor of Entomology, and Lecturer in Bionomics | in Leland Stanford Junior University | [quotation] | [vignette] | New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1907 [our copy received Oct. 1, 1907]; pp. I-XII, 1-490, 3 colored plates (of birds), 298 text figures.

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